[Battle of Salamis](http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/History/Battles/Salamis.html)

The Athenians went to Salamis after the [Battle of Thermopylae.](http://joseph_berrigan.tripod.com/ancientbabylon/id28.html) The Persians then went to Athens and burned the entire city down. Athens had 371 triremes, and were being led by their general, Thermistocles. The Persians had 1207 ships. Thermistocles and Eurybiades argued over whether or not they should move their ships closer to land in case they got defeated, they could retreat. Since they could not decide on what they wanted to do, Thermistocles sent a messenger to the Persians saying that they couldn’t decide on a location, and they were withdrawing from the battle. [Xerxes](http://plato-dialogues.org/tools/char/xerxes.htm), the Persian commander, decided that they would attack. So the Persians searched the gulf for Greek retreat. When the Persians finally found where the Greeks had been retreating, one of the Greek ships rammed right into the head Persian ship, and the rest of the Greek ships joined in the attack. The Persians tried to turn back, but they were trapped by the rest of the fleet who jammed into the strait. In the end 200 Persian ships had been sunk. Many of the soldiers onboard drowned because they did not know how to swim. The ones who survived ended up on shore and were killed by the Athenians and Spartans who found them. In the end, the rest of the Persian army that survived marched back over the bridge of ships they had created before the Greeks arrived to destroy it, and Xerxes returned back to Persia.